

An FIR has been lodged by NEDA against M/s Raghav Trading Company, New Delhi in July, 1996 for not completing the works as per their agreement with NEDA. NEDA has informed that the police action is awaited.

An enquiry has also been ordered by Director, NEDA. The enquiry is still in progress.

(c) to (e) According to NEDA, the services of a consultant were taken by NEDA for initial survey for selection of the sites for installation of the aerogenerator systems, recording of data on wind speeds and duration for which winds are prevailing at the sites.

As reported by NEDA, *prima facie* examination has pointed towards collection of such data by the consultant. However, the authenticity and usefulness of the data collected are also included in the terms of reference of the enquiry.

[English]

#### Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board

2674. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electricity Corporation (REC) has more than Rs. 600 crore outstanding against the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board and the above board is unable to pay its instalment and interest due thereon;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the R.E.C. has stopped advancing loans to the U.P. State Electricity Board and considering to close its office at Lucknow;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to direct the UPSEB to clear the dues of R.E.C.;

(f) whether the R.E.C. are considering to take over the electrification works of the State in its hand; and

(g) if not, the manner in which the electricity is likely to be made available to the villages of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) As on 31.3.1996, accumulated loans of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) outstanding against Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) are Rs. 756.45 crores. Out of this, Rs. 148.77 crores has become payable to REC as repayment of principal and Rs. 240.27 crores towards interest. Thus, the total default by UPSEB upto March, 1996 is Rs. 389.04 crores.

(b) UPSEB has not been able to clear the outstanding dues of REC due to its poor financial health leading to a resource crunch.

(c) and (d) REC has sanctioned 81 projects for financial assistance of Rs. 124.46 crores in 1994-95 and 7 projects for assistance of Rs. 12.44 crores in 1995-96 to UPSEB. 18 projects of UPSEB involving financial assistance of Rs. 34.32 crores, received during 1996-97, are under active consideration for sanction by REC. The Corporation is not closing its office at Lucknow.

(e) The Union Government has recently approved the adjustment of the outstanding dues, as on December 1996, from the Central Plan allocation to States (including Uttar Pradesh) of all the Central Power Sector Undertakings (including REC) and organisations of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Coal and Department of Atomic Energy. However, the adjustment will be restricted to a maximum of 15% of the Central Plan assistance, per annum.

(f) Rural Electrification Corporation was incorporated to make finances available for rural electrification works. It is therefore, not considering to take over the execution of rural electrification projects.

(g) Rural Electrification works are continuing to be implemented by the UPSEB. The UPSEB has reported electrification of 677 villages and energisation of 10,919 pumpsets during the current financial year upto January, 1997.

#### Lai Dora in Chandigarh

2675. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandigarh Administration is considering the proposal of extending Lai Dora of various villages in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard from various Panchayats of the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether the Government are considering the proposal of giving electricity and water connections to those people who had constructed houses on their own land in various villages in the Union Territory of Chandigarh; and

(f) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected from the Chandigarh Administration and concerned other Central